

*for Translation
Services*

15 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion of Machine Translation

1. On 14 May 1959, Mr. Zbigniew L. Pankowicz from Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base accompanied by Mr. William W. Eaton, Vice-President of the Corporation for Economic and Industrial Research visited me. Mr. Pankowicz is the machine translation project monitor for ATIC. His visit to Washington was for the purpose of briefing himself on the latest developments and he had apparently already talked with people at Georgetown University and the Corporation for Economic and Industrial Research. He indicated that they at ATIC had been working with Mr. Oettinger of Harvard University in doing some print-outs for machine translation. He further indicated that ATIC was vitally interested in possibilities for machine translation in that there was a considerable translation work load in 18 languages and that they would be interested in a coordinated approach toward early development of a machine. He said that current costs for translation ran up to \$36 per thousand words and that all commercial translating organizations were overloaded and apparently unable to accept further volume that ATIC wants translated. He added that they would find it acceptable if machine costs ran at \$40 a thousand, because of increased speed and capacity.

2. Mr. Eaton indicated that his company, of course, had handled the trial run [] which used the code matching technique for machine translation and that he felt machine translation had reached the computer development stage. He expressed his concern, well-nigh alarm, over the dilatory developments []
[] He felt that taxpayers dollars were being wasted by the strife and childish battling of individuals in both groups at []
[] He indicated that he held no brief for either group and felt thoroughly discouraged as members of both groups had come to talk with him; each castigating the other group, revealing complete lack of cooperation and coordination within the machine translation

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project and concealment of methods and techniques developed one from the other, all resulting in greater and greater delays in achieving some workable system. He felt that the time had come for the government to contract with some responsible business firm having the computers, that would undertake to develop a practical machine expeditiously, utilizing linguist consultants as necessary. His corporation, for one, now with added capital available, and with five years experience utilizing computer technology for handling government problems under contract, stands ready to undertake such a proposition. Mr. Pankowicz added that it was his opinion that Mr. Eaton's corporation had the largest and best group of people in the country with the know-how of applying computer technology to practical problems.

3. The meeting was concluded with Mr. Eaton expressing the hope that his ideas would be given some consideration before the Agency enters into contracts for the coming fiscal year.

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J. J. RACHALL